

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00612 141109Z

43

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 /062 W

----- 030914

R 141009Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9998

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 612

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: EAID, NG

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE

REF: A. STATE 29540; B. STATE 15649

SUMMARY: DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE FEBRUARY 13 I PRESENTED HIM WITH GENERAL OUTLINES OF OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR NIGER IN 1975 WHICH INVOLVE APPROXIMATELY \$20,000,000 IN US RESOURCES. ALSO INFORMED HIM OF OUR DECISION TO DEOBLIGATE LOAN FOR GAYA BRIDGE PROJECT. KOUNTCHE SAID HE WOULD STUDY CAREFULLY STATEMENT ON PROJECTS WE LEFT WITH HIM WHICH AS PRESENTED SEEMED GENERALLY SATISFACTORY. DISCUSSION ALSO HIGHLIGHTED SEVERAL AREAS WHERE WE MIGHT RESPOND QUICKLY WITH R&R OR SELF HELP FUNDS WHILE WORKING OUT LONGER TERM PROJECTS WITH GON. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING RDO CHIAVAROLI, I CALLED ON PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AT MY REQUEST FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF US PROGRAMS IN NIGER DURING 1975. RECALLIGMLMY FIRST WORKING MEETING WITH HIM JULY 3, 1974 WHEN I GAVE HIM STATEMENT SETTING FORTH THE GENERAL THRUST OF US ACTIVITIES IN NIGER IN 1974 IN ORDER ACQUAINT HIM AND NEW REGIME WITH US EFFORT, I SAID  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00612 141109Z

WE NOW HAD GENERAL OUTLINE OF OUR PROGRAMS FOR 1975 TO SUBMIT

TO HIM. THIS COVERED BOTH AID AND PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVED EXPENDITURE OF APPROXIMATELY \$20,000,000 IN US RESOURCES, WHICH WAS ROUGHLY AT SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR.

2. IN PRESENTING THIS STATEMENT TO KOUNTCHE I SAID I WISHED TO HIGHLIGHT THREE POINTS:

A) STATEMENT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT CONCLUSIONS AND PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF DAP TEAM WHICH HAD VISITED NIGER IN DECEMBER AND FINDINGS OF WHICH WOULD SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE TO GON. DRAWING ON REF A, I SUMMARIZED DAP PROPOSALS, AND SAID WE WERE READY TO SET DOWN WITH GON MINISTRIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND GET NEW SCHEMES UNDERWAY. KOUNTCHE SAID HE WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH DAP PROPOSALS AS OUTLINE TO HIM AND WOULD STUDY PAPER CAREFULLY.

B) I WISHED TO CALL PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PARAGRAPH IN PAPER DEALING WITH GAYA BRIDGE PROJECT. THIS MATTER HAD COME UP DURING ADMINISTRATOR PARKER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT IN LATE OCTOBER AND PARKER HAD AGREED TO REVIEW STATUS OF PROJECT UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON. REVIEW HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND DECISION REACHED TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATELY TECHNICAL ENGINEERING STUDY OF BRIDGE AND PORT. DEADLINE OF APRIL 30 HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR SIGNING OF THIS CONTRACT, AFTER WHICH DATE BALANCE OF FUNDS IN LOAN WOULD BE DEOBLIGATED BECAUSE OF LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON UNUSED FUNDS. I ADDED I WAS AUTHORIZED TO ASSURE PRESIDENT THAT USG WAS PREPARED CONSIDER NEW LOAN REQUEST AFTER RESULTS

OF TECHNICAL STUDY RECEIVED AND WHEN ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF PROJECT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. MEANWHILE A/RDO WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE MINISTRY SO THAT WE COULD GET ON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT WITH ENGINEERING FIRM. PRESIDENT NODDED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION.

C) REFERRING TO PRESIDENT'S RECENT TRIP TO AGADEZ DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH HE HAD PUBLICLY DEPLORED CONDITIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NIAMEY 00612 141109Z

OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND MEDICAL CLINICS, I REMINDED PRESIDENT OF OUR SELF-HELP FUNDS WHICH DID NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH IN FINANCIAL TERMS BUT WERE WELL SUITED TO HELP IMPROVE THESE FACILITIES IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND PEOPLE. A/RDO ADDED THAT R&R AND EMERGENCY COUNTERPART FUNDS ALSO AVAILABLE UPGRADING DISPENSARIES. I SAID WE WERE READY TO SEND OFFICER TO AREAS CONCERNED TO ACT ON MATTER OR AWAIT REQUEST FROM CONCERNED MINISTRIES.

3. PRESIDENT REACTED QUICKLY TO THIS SUGGESTION SAYING HE WAS ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD ON IMPROVING SCHOOL CONDITIONS. AS FOR CLINICS, HE PREFERRED PUT ASIDE FOR TIME BEING QUESTION OF IMPROVING MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS IT WAS MORE COMPLICATED BUSINESS. HE SAID THAT DURING HIS TRIP HE HAD INSPECTED SCHOOLS FOR NOMADS BUILT UNDER DIRECTION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF SCHOOLS KANTARA IN AGADEZ DEPARTMENT AND FINANCED BY IDASTER RELIF FUNDS WHICH US HAD GIVEN LAST AUGUST AFTER FLOODS IN AREA. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY KANTARA'S DESIGN OF THESE SCHOOLS WHICH USED LOCAL MATERIALS AND WERE WELL SUITED

TO NIGER'S NEEDS AND TO ITS LIMITED RESOURCES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE WISHED TO THANK US AGAIN FOR OUR INITIATIVE IN MAKING THESE FUNDS AVAILABLE. HE ADDED HE WAS SO IMPRESSED BY THIS TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION THAT HE HAS ASKED KANTARA TO COME UP WITH DESIGN FOR GENERAL USE IN NIGER. HE FELT SUCH SCHOOLS FAR MORE APPROPRIATE THAN CONCRETE BUILDINGS WHICH WERE GENERALLY BEYOND NIGER'S MEANS AND IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN. HE NOTED MOST CONCRETE BUILDINGS OBSERVED DURING HIS TOUR WERE WITHOUT DOORS, WINDOWS OR FURNITURE AND CONCRETE FLOORS WERE UNSUITABLE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN WINTER.

4. CONTINUING TO COMMENT ON HIS TRIP, KOONTCHE SAID HE FOUND FOOD SITUATION GENERALLY SATISFACTORY. GRAZING LANDS AND CATTLE WERE ALSO IN GOOD SHAPE, SO MUCH SO THAT PRICE OF CATTLE WAS RISING. FOOD-FOR-WORK PROJECTS WERE GETTING UNDER WAY BUT TOO SLOWLY TO SATISFY HIM. HE HAD INSTRUCTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO RESUME FREE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO THOSE NOMADS INCAPABLE OF WORKING FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. HE ADDED THAT ONE HAD TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY IN CHANGING NOMAD LIFE STYLE; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RESIST. HE SAID GON IS NOW CONCENTRATING ITS FOOD DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NIAMEY 00612 141109Z

IN GETTING SUPPLIES TO FORWARD AREAS AND THIS WAS POSING STORAGE PROBLEMS. THERE WAS NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE RAINS WERE DUE BUT HE STILL HOPED TO BUILD SOME BANCO STORAGE UNITS TO PROVIDE BETTER SHELTER. THIS WAS TASK THAT

SEEMED BEYOND COMPETENCY OF BUREAUCRATS BUT HE WAS PUSHING THEM HARD. HERE AGAIN, WE SAID WE WERE READY TO HELP WITH STORAGE FACILITIES.

5. KOONTCHE ALSO NOTED POTENTIAL FOR TOURISM IN AGADEZ AREA. MODERN FACILITIES WERE BEYOND NIGER'S MEANS BUT HE HAD INSTRUCTED OFFICIALS TO INSURE THAT EXISTING FACILITIES SHOULD BE BETTER MAINTAINED.

6. COMMENT. THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW PRESIDENT WAS CORDIAL,

RELAXED AND COMMUNICATIVE. AT TIMES HE SEEMED OVER-  
WHELMED BY MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS FACING HIM AND PAUCITY OF RESOURCES  
AGGRAVATED BY DECLINING VALUE OF DOLLAR WHICH HE  
SAID WAS HURTING NIGER. HE ALSO SEEMED TO DESPAIR OF  
GETTING BUREAUCRACY TO MOVE, DESCRIBING IT AS LETHARGIC  
AND DESK-AND PAPER-ORIENTED. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED DETERMINED  
TO MOVE AHEAD AND CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO ENERGIZE GOVERNMENT  
AND PEOPLE.

AS NOTED ABOVE WE HIGHLIGHTED QUICK IMPACT  
ASSISTANCE LIKE R&R AND SELF-HELP FUNDS BECAUSE BELIEVE IT  
IMPORTANT TO DEMONSTRATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO MOVE QUICKLY AND  
RESPOND TO NEEDS AS HE IDENTIFIES THEM DURING HIS TRIPS  
AROUND COUNTRY. EVEN OTHER THINGS THIS WILL HELP  
OVERCOME HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN IMPACT OF OUR DECISION  
REGARDING GAYA BRIDGE SETS IN AND ALSO GIVE US TIME WHILE  
WE WORK OUT LONGER TERM PROJECTS WITH GON. END COMMENT. HECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NIAMEY00612  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750054-1121  
**From:** NIAMEY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750242/aaaablcq.tel  
**Line Count:** 186  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. STATE 29540; B. STATE 15649  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE  
**TAGS:** EAID, NG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006